

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device management system (DMS) enables a plurality of network-enabled embedded devices potentially having a variety of device protocols to communicate via a network with a remote device system server. The DMS includes a back-end management applications server, and a module to translate different interface protocol formats associated with various of the devices into formats suitable for the applications server. The applications server is enabled to use multiple protocols and representations, and can use protocols and interfaces that are simpler than what the devices actually use, thus hiding potential complexity. Especially advantageous is the ability of the DMS to manipulate the representations and behavior of the devices, including the ability to augment functionality and to merge devices to create virtual devices.